

West Bengal - West Bengal Startup Policy 2016-2021

Preamble

The policy aims to build a robust startup ecosystem in West Bengal by encouraging new enterprise creation.

Focus on promoting entrepreneurship among youth, with special emphasis on women and rural entrepreneurs.

Government support includes easing statutory clearances, facilitating networking, providing infrastructure, and fostering innovation.

Vision

To position West Bengal as a leading startup destination in India with a strong enabling ecosystem.

Mission

Foster a culture of entrepreneurship and social acceptance of startups.

Integrate entrepreneurship education at all levels including schools and colleges.

Support and promote incubators and accelerators.

Provide training, mentoring, and networking opportunities.

Establish financial support mechanisms and enhance regulatory ease.

Aim to create 10,000 startups in ten years.

Enabling Ecosystem

Establish Entrepreneurship Development Centre Network (EDCN) across universities and institutes to nurture entrepreneurial mindset.

Create a network of incubators including government and private sector entities.

Provide incubators with resources like shared workspace, mentor access, funding, prototyping labs, and testing facilities.

Facilitate startups' access to government R&D labs and technology.

Develop mentor networks and kick-starter funds to support early-stage startups.

Organize hackathons, innovation challenges, and national-level startup competitions ("Egiye Bangla").

Academic Initiatives

Integrate entrepreneurship courses and activities within academic syllabi.

Provide opportunities for internships, industrial collaborations, and innovation projects within universities.

Promote Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in entrepreneurship.

Develop student startup cells (E-cells) and organize competitions and boot camps.

Funding and Financial Support

Formation of West Bengal MSME Venture Capital Fund and network of registered Venture and Angel funds.

Incentives provided to startups and incubators to encourage investment, expansion, and commercialization.

Special grants for incubation centers and accelerators.

Recognition and rewards through events and competitions.

Incentives and Support

Startups receive financial assistance for ideation, prototype development, marketing, and scaling.

Incubators get capital grants, operational expense reimbursements, and support for acceleration programs.

Regulatory ease includes reduced inspections and certification processes.

Procurement preference for startups in government tenders.

Access to shared government facilities for prototyping, testing, and R&D.

Assistance in statutory compliance, professional services, and grievance redressal.

Governance

State Startup Council to oversee policy implementation, chaired by the Chief Secretary.

Council includes government officials across relevant departments.

Regular review and policy adjustments based on feedback and ecosystem development.

Policy Duration

Effective from January 1st, 2016 to December 31st, 2021.

Source: West Bengal Startup Policy 2016

Issued by: Government of West Bengal

Governing Body: State Startup Council

Policy Period: 2016-2021 (ecosystem programs ongoing)